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# ‘No state laws were breached’

## Sultan orders Jais to counsel Muslims involved

**PETALING JAYA:** The Sultan of Selangor has ruled that no group shall be prosecuted over a search conducted by the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) at the premises of a church in August.

Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah also commanded that Jais provide counselling to the Muslims present during the dinner, adding that the department did not breach the state laws.

A search had been carried out by Jais during the Aug 3 dinner, organised by Harapan Komuniti at the Dream Centre Complex belonging to Damansara Utama Methodist Church.

Harapan Komuniti is a non-governmental organisation, which is a HIV support group.

“Based on the investigations by Jais, there is evidence that there were attempts to subvert the faith and belief of Muslims but the evidence obtained would be insufficient for further legal action to be taken,” Sultan Sharafuddin said in a statement yesterday.

He added that after carefully deliberating over the Jais report and obtaining advice from religious authorities and legal experts, it was decided that there would be no prosecution against any party.

“Even so, we command that Jais provide counselling to Muslims who were involved in the said dinner, to restore their belief and faith in the religion of Islam.

“We also command Jais to carry out preaching to Muslims in a more regular and organised manner so that their belief and faith towards Islam is protected and enhanced,” he said.

The Sultan said Jais’ action on Aug 3 was viewed with “great concern”.

He said he hoped the people of Selangor,

regardless of race or religion, did not misconstrue and dispute the department’s action before knowing the true facts of the action taken.

Jais, he added, had submitted a full report on the search and on the subsequent action taken.

He said Jais’ action accorded with the jurisdiction provided under the Syariah Criminal Procedure (State of Selangor) Enactment 2003, Syariah Criminal (State of Selangor) Enactment 1995 and Selangor Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims) Enactment 1988.

The Sultan also reminded Muslims and non-Muslims to maintain religious harmony in the country.

“We hope that after this, all activities being carried out or which are going to be carried out for the purpose of spreading other religions to Muslims in Selangor must cease immediately, and no further activities or anything similar to them are carried out in the future,” he said.

He said that as the head of Islam in the state, he was “gravely concerned and extremely offended” by attempts of certain parties to weaken the faith and belief of Muslims in Selangor.

“We command that Majlis Agama Islam Selangor (Selangor Islamic Religious Council) and Jais always conduct thorough observations and take necessary action without hesitation in line with the jurisdiction allowed under the law,” he decreed.